

members present, and the meeting was full of interest. The secretary's report showed a membership of 264, and more applicants awaiting admission.

During the winter a blank containing questions as to hospitals, capacity and requirements of training, etc., had been sent to about twenty hospitals in this state. The chairman of the credentials committee reported returns from about fourteen hospitals, nearly all of which give a three years' training and require not less than two years high-school work.

Business was followed by three short and interesting papers: "Trained Nurses as Hospital Superintendents," by Miss Ida Patterson, superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital, St. Paul; "The Private Nurse," Miss Mary Wood; and "Hourly Nursing," by Miss Ida Cannon. The latter paper brought forth some good discussion as to the success or non-success of this sort of nursing in St. Paul and Minneapolis. While Minneapolis nurses realize that there is a great deal of work before them, there is no lack of determination and enthusiasm in securing a good state organization.

#### OHIO

The committee on state registration for nurses in Ohio reports failure in its attempt to get the bill through this session. The bill drafted was a strong one, having been outlined by Isabel Hampton Robb. It was interesting to note, at its reading before the House committee, the tremendous opposition it met from the small private hospitals and sanatoria. The nurses feel that the experience gained has been valuable, and anticipate success in their next attempt.

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### THE QUESTION OF CLOTHES

NURSES who are much thrown with people of wealth are often tempted by the pretty things they see, and fall into the error of purchasing, for themselves, garments which are beyond their means and unsuited to their calling. That woman is well dressed who is suitably dressed, and it is not fitting that a self-supporting woman should provide herself with silk under-clothing, fancy stockings, elaborate hats, and costly furs. We have all felt a sense of amusement in seeing a servant dressed in gaudy attire for her "day out," and we have all felt a pride in the occasional sensible maid, who wears quiet, well-fitting, unostentatious garments. The same principle applies to us. A nurse who goes to a case in a velvet dress, with her hat covered

with feathers, may find hardly a hook to call her own, and will not be able to take proper care of her fine things. Unfortunately nurses who are extravagant in their dress are not criticized to their faces, so they travel on in self-complacency, unaware that such folly is to their disadvantage. Most of us resent criticism, especially any suggestions as to how we shall spend the money we have honestly earned. But, laying aside the question of provision for the future, the nurse who goes upon a case in foolish attire creates an unfavorable impression which it may take some days of patient, faithful work to counteract.

On the other hand, a nurse should not be careless of her appearance, untidy, or shabby. A patient is sometimes ashamed to take her nurse to walk or to drive because, though she looks well in her uniform, her street clothing is unsuitable.

The woman who is in a hospital position or who is doing private nursing of ordinary character needs very little clothing besides her uniforms and should be able to dress comfortably on one hundred dollars a year. A good hat can be bought for six dollars, or, if one costs twelve, it can be remodelled for a second year. A suit, which costs from thirty to forty dollars, will last two seasons nicely. Good looking, comfortable shoes, which wear well, can be had for from three and a-half dollars to five, and flannels, of part wool, for two dollars a set. The nurse who is apt with her needle and can make her own underclothing is fortunate, for ready-made undergarments, though apparently cheaper, are rarely of the best material and give out soon. Shirt-waists for ordinary use cost from one and a-half to two and a-half dollars, and a nicer one, for dress-up occasions, can be found for five or six.

The nurse who is travelling with a patient, spending much time at hotels, will have to go above the hundred-dollar mark for her yearly wardrobe, for she will need one or two evening dresses and a larger supply of waists and skirts.

A general rule, which is safe to follow in any purchase of wearing apparel, is to put one's money into good material rather than into elaborate trimming, and never to follow an extreme fashion, which may subside as quickly as it has arisen.

There is much to be saved by buying a little out of season and nurses living in the large centres can take advantage of the January mark-downs of all ready-made woolen garments and furs. Silk waists and white shirt-waists and skirts can often be gotten for half price in August. In fact, for those who have the cash in hand January and August are the shopping months. "A penny saved is a penny earned."